

While I have not named the other courageous Democrats, I thank them all for their commitment to justice and integrity. No game playing, no playing both sides, the Texans took a stand. They stood against an unnecessary and unprecedented procedure which was an insult to Texas voters. They stood against the destruction of our current process which protects the voting rights of Texas citizens, and they stood against a special interest legislative agenda which placed politics before issues that are critical to Texas families such as school finance and the State budget and insurance crisis.

As I reflect upon the actions of the Texas House Democrats, I am disturbed by the reaction of their Republican counterparts in securing involvement in the Department of Homeland Security and its resources in this political matter.

The mission of the Department of Homeland Security is to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States, reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, and minimize the damage and recover from attacks that do occur.

Further, the Department's mandate is to mobilize and focus the resources of the Federal Government to accomplish this mission. For 2003, the Homeland Security budget is \$33.5 billion and the administration's fiscal year 2004 request is \$36.2 billion at a 7.4 percent increase.

The budgetary line items for the agency include improving information analyses and infrastructure protection, preparing for and responding to national emergencies, securing the Nation's borders and transportation systems, improving immigration services, and advancing science and technology. There is no budgetary line item slated for tracking down State legislators who are not terrorists and not a threat to homeland security.

Consequently, the Texas Republicans and this administration must answer the following question: Were the citizens of this Nation served well in the use of resources by the Department of Homeland Security in a Texas political matter? I submit that the answer is no.

Again, I salute the Texas House Democrats for their courageous and principled action and urge the administration to guarantee that the Department of Homeland Security follows its mandate: namely, securing our homeland from terrorism, not State legislators.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO CHARLES TANGORA AND JACK KELLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MCCOTTER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Mr. Speaker, last week my district lost two beloved members of our community so, with sadness, I pay them posthumous tribute today.

Local attorney, civic activist, and despite the fact I was the worst law clerk he ever hired, my friend, Charles "Chuck" Tangora will truly be mourned and missed. While practicing law in Livonia for over 35 years, he raised a fine family and still found time to help improve the quality of life in our community, including being instrumental in ensuring the city of Livonia elected its first female City Council President, a quiet, mild-mannered schoolteacher named Georgia Joan McCotter.

Of course, Chuck's natural leadership abilities were recognized by all involved. He was the president of the Italian American Club, past president of Livonia Rotary and of the American Diabetes Association. And, most importantly, he was known as the one person who could always bring opposing sides to a consensus in the community's best interests. Most recently, Chuck was instrumental in raising the sizable reward which helped police solve the Marco Pesce family murder case.

And for all his benevolent works, Chuck, true to his fine, kind character never asked for anything in return but the smiles of those whose lives he touched. And once the immediate pain of his passing wanes in the winds of wistful recollection, as he, himself, would earnestly wish, there will again be smiles upon the faces of all who remember his life's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, the second pillar of our community to fall was the Honorable Jack Kelley, who gave 19 years of distinguished public service to the city he loved as a member of the Detroit City Council. If one word were used to sum up the man, no, it would not be one of the colorful words he often used, it would be the word "honest." And if two words were used, they would be "brutally honest."

It was his innate, intense honesty which led him to be a fast friend and fair foe, a colorful Celt who understood the brevity and the levity of our frail, flawed existence and felt compelled to help his fellow human beings in the short, sweet time God allowed.

And he did. After graduating from St. Francis DeSales High School, he joined the Navy and served his country for 30 months in the Pacific arena during World War II. Upon his return home, he commenced a career of public service by being appointed deputy director of the Building and Safety Engineering Department by then-Mayor Cavanagh, a post he held for 30 years. Then he was elected to his council seat in 1974, and even now his legacy continues as his son, Kevin, the Redford Township supervisor, followed in his Democratic footsteps and continued the father's noble tradition of public service.

Yes, a staunch Democrat, proud union man, and devout Irish Catholic, Jack Kelley's greatness was, to me, best expressed by another staunch Democrat, proud union member, devout Irish Catholic, and boyhood friend

of Jack Kelley's, my late father who said, "Jack Kelley was the only person I ever voted for who tried to break my nose. He is good people." Truly, we will never see the likes of Jack Kelley again, and truly we are all the lesser for his loss.

#### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL SERIOUSLY FLAWED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, the House is about to consider the defense authorization bill that, sadly, is seriously flawed. It would exempt not only the military but all Federal agencies from certain aspects of the Endangered Species Act and the Marine Mammal Protection Act.

Instead of addressing real threats to readiness, the administration and Congress is taking on an easier target, the dolphins. Using defense as cover, the Republicans propose to make changes to environmental laws in ways which have nothing to do with defense readiness, suggesting that was not their goal in the first place.

The bill would take out one of the key provisions of the ESA by requiring that only critical habitat that is deemed necessary shall be designated. Without a definition of necessary, this invites abuse and applies to all Federal lands, not just the Department of Defense.

The bill also includes the Department of Defense proposal eliminating critical habitat designation altogether on lands owned or controlled by the military.

The bill contains a rider to exempt the Department of Defense at Fort Huachuca in Arizona from any responsibility for off-base groundwater pumping that threatens the existence of the San Pedro River. This rider was not requested by the Department of Defense, nor does it address military training or preparedness, and it has created a firestorm in the State of Arizona.

The authorization bill weakens the Marine Mammal Protection Act, weakening the current definition of harassment of marine mammals. It applies to all ocean users, not just the Department of Defense.

Finally, it allows the Department to exempt itself from the Marine Mammal Protection Act for anything necessary for national defense. It excludes any meaningful involvement of the wildlife agencies, the States, Congress and the public in review of these exemptions.

Our military activities are the largest source of pollution in the country. We are the wealthiest and most powerful and most polluting country in the world. We ought to be able to figure out how to better address this problem without compromising the environmental survival of what we are fighting to protect. Given the right direction and adequate resources, our military can achieve tremendous results.